

Appl. No. 10/682,086

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Status of Claims

Claims 1 and 15 to 33 have been cancelled.

Claims 2 to 14 remain in the application.

Claim Amendments

Claims 4 and 9 have been re-written in independent form including all of the limitations of original claim 1.

Claims 2, 3, 7 and 12 has been made dependent on currently amended claim 4.

35 U.S.C § 103 Claim Rejections

On page 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 7-8 and 12-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Engelbrecht *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,148,219) in view of Tealdi *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,952,574).

On page 10 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Engelbrecht *et al.* in view of Carter *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,958,677).

On page 11 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 27-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Engelbrecht *et al.* in view of Carter *et al.* and further in view of Stilp *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,463,290).

On page 12 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that claims 4-6 and 9-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 4 and 9 were solely dependent on original claim 1. As noted above, claims 4 and 9 have been re-written in independent form including all of the limitations of their base claim

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(original claim 1) and should therefore be allowable. Also, dependent claims 2, 3, 7 and 12 have been made dependent on allowable amended independent claim 4, and should be allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 15-33 have been cancelled, rendering the Examiner's rejection of claims 15-33 moot.

With these amendments, all of the remaining claims have either been indicated as allowable by the Examiner, have been made directly or indirectly dependent on one of the claims indicated to be allowable by the Examiner, and should therefore be allowable for at least the same reasons.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

In view of the foregoing, early favorable consideration of this application is earnestly solicited. In the event that the Examiner has concerns regarding the present response, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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